

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

To track moving objects in a smaller number of temporarily stored time-series pictures, regarding N consecutive pictures ($N \geq 2$) within the time-series pictures, a method comprises the steps of: (a) by assigning the same ID to adjacent blocks if the absolute value of the difference between motion vectors of the blocks are less than a predetermined value, assigning different IDs to moving objects overlapping in a picture; (b) judging whether or not a first object of a first block group assigned a first ID and a second object of a second block group assigned a second ID are in contact with each other in each of the N consecutive pictures, and further each correlation between the first objects of temporally adjacent pictures in the N consecutive pictures is more than or equal to a predetermined value; and (c) tracking the first and second objects backward in time after the judgment at step (b) is positive.